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Source: Zigzag

Information Date: 31 January 1946

Sub-Source:

Date Info. Received:

Evaluation: B-2

SUBJECT: FORMER NKVD AGENTS, WHO MAY HAVE RESUMED WORK FOR THE NKVD

1. Source considers it possible that Erna JEPSEN, a trained NKVD agent, who was apprehended in summer 1942 by the Italian police and transferred to German custody the same year, may have been re-enlisted by the NKVD.

2. In 1935 Erna JEPSEN and her husband WINDT, an engine fitter by trade, went to Japan (YOKOHAMA), where he worked for a German firm. Both JEPSEN and her husband were wanted by the German police for Communist activities. Several years later they went to MOSCOW and here JEPSEN found out that her husband had been working for the NKVD in Germany and in Japan. In MOSCOW JEPSEN divorced her husband and re-married the Soviet General OSWIENKO, whose acquaintance she had made in MOSCOW. After having been married for about a year, OSWIENKO was brought to trial on conspiracy charges as an accomplice to Soviet Marshal TUCHATCHEWSKI, convicted and executed. Erna JEPSEN was also arrested and for a period of 18 months held in the GPU prison LUBLJANKA in MOSCOW.

3. JEPSEN was eventually released on condition that she would work for the NKVD. In 1941 she was sent to a special school near MOSCOW, where she received training in the construction and operation of W/T equipment, ciphering and other technical detail required for agent work. At the special school she met KUCHARSKI, a Polish national (see special Report No. 18), who also received training. End of 1941 both JEPSEN and KUCHARSKI were assigned a mission: They were to go to the United States, posing as a Jewish couple, equipped with papers in the name of GUTMANN. In New York they would settle down and acquire a small restaurant. They were not given any specific orders as to the kind of information they should obtain. The final briefing would be done in New York through a local NKVD representative. This representative they were to meet at a previous appointed date in a New York railroad station. For living expenses and for the purchase of the restaurant they had been given a sizeable amount of U.S. currency.

4. JEPSEN and KUCHARSKI left MOSCOW end of 1941. Their itinerary called for passage on an Italian boat, which had already been booked. When they arrived in Italy they learned that, owing to Italy's declaration of war, all sea traffic between Italy and the

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United States had been discontinued. They soon received orders to stay in Italy and wait for developments. In summer 1942 they were arrested by the Italian police and in fall 1942 turned over to the German police.

5. At the end of the war, JEPSEN was detained in the Police Prison, Charlottenburg. She was released a few days before the occupation of BERLIN. Source talked to her just prior to her release. She expressed considerable fear at the thought of capture by the Soviets and asked source for a travel permit to HAMBURG; this source did. Source believes that JEPSEN managed to reach HAMBURG where it is likely that she stays with her father.

6. JEPSEN is approximately 40 years of age. Born in HAMBURG. Of humble origin. Attended school in HAMBURG. Worked in a factory and as a nursemaid. Met her future husband WINDT in HAMBURG and married him over her parents' objections.

7. Source suggests that we look up the police records of the Police Prison CHARLOTTENBURG (British Sector) which contain JEPSEN'S vital statistics and her HAMBURG address. Source considers it likely that she lives in HAMBURG under her maiden name.

8. According to source, the possibility should not be excluded that JEPSEN still works for the Soviets. Owing to her prolonged imprisonment, she is a nervous wreck.

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